

House
REPUBLICAN
Conference

FloorPrep

Legislative Digest

Monday, November 1, 1999

J.C. Watts, Jr.
Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour and
2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business
(No Votes Before 6:00 p.m.)*

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 348—FEMA and Civil Defense Monument Act
H.R. 862—Clear Creek Distribution System Conveyance Act
H.R. 992—Sly Park Unit Conveyance Act
H.R. 2889—Central Utah Project Completion Act Amendments
H.R. 2632—Dugger Mountain Wilderness Act
H.Con.Res. 189—Sense of Congress on Shark Finning
H.R. 2737—Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Land Conveyance Act
H.R. 1235—Solano Water Impoundment and Conveyance Act
H.R. 486—Community Broadcasters Protection Act
H.R. 1714—Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act
H.R. 974—District of Columbia College Access Act
(Considering Senate Amendments)



Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

Floor Situation: The House will consider the following 11 bills under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

H.R. 348—FEMA and Civil Defense Monument Act authorizes the United States National Civil Defense Monument Commission, a private nonprofit organization, to construct a monument to honor staff and volunteers who have served the nation's civil defense, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and emergency management programs. The monument, a gift from the commission, will be built at the FEMA training facility in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The monument design and site selection are subject to the approval of the FEMA Director. CBO estimates that enactment will have no significant

impact on federal spending. The bill was introduced by Mr. Bartlett and was reported by the International Relations Committee by voice vote on October 20.

H.R. 862—Clear Creek Distribution System Conveyance Act authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation (BuRec), acting on behalf of the Interior Secretary, to convey all rights to the Clear Creek Community Services District within 180 days of enactment. The bill mandates the transfer of the irrigation system, surface drainage, related lands, a control tank, and other equipment and properties. This transfer will end government responsibility for managing the system and leave the area in the control of the local district. In addition, the bill pardons the district from repaying any amounts due to the federal government for the distribution system. CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 862 may reduce federal spending over the 2000-2004 period, but any such savings will be insignificant. The bill was introduced by Mr. Herger and was reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote on March 17.

H.R. 992—Sly Park Unit Conveyance Act authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation (BuRec), acting on behalf of the Interior Secretary, to convey all rights to the Sly Park Unit of the Central Valley Project in California to the El Dorado Irrigation District for a purchase price of \$11.5 million. A CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time. The bill was introduced by Mr. Doolittle and was reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote on March 17.

H.R. 2889—Central Utah Project Completion Act Amendments amends the 1992 Central Utah Project Completion Act (*P.L. 102-575*) to allow the Interior Secretary to use up to \$60 million in unexpended budget authority to acquire water rights and complete various other projects regarding endangered species, water conservation, and minimum flows in the lower Provo River. CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 2889 will have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. Cannon and was reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote on October 20.

H.R. 2632—Dugger Mountain Wilderness Act designates approximately 9,200 acres of federal land in the Talladega National Forest, Alabama, as the Dugger Mountain Wilderness Area. In addition, the bill allows the Forest Service two years to remove a fire tower in the area, which was previously slated for removal by the agency. CBO estimates that enactment will have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. Riley and was reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote on October 20.

H.Con.Res. 189 expresses the sense of Congress that (1) the practice of removing the fins of a shark and dumping its carcass back into the ocean, commonly referred to as “shark finning,” is a wasteful and unsportsmanlike practice that could lead to overfishing of shark resources; (2) the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, the state of Hawaii, and the National Marine Fisheries Service should promptly and permanently end the practice of shark finning in all federal and state waters in the Central Pacific Ocean and Western Pacific Ocean; and (3) the Secretary of State should continue to strongly advocate for the coordinated management of sharks and the eventual elimination of shark finning in all other waters. The bill was introduced by Mr. Cunningham and was reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote on October 20.

H.R. 2737—Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Land Conveyance authorizes the National Park Service to donate approximately 39 acres of land in Illinois to the state so that it can build an historic and interpretive center within the boundaries of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. The bill requires that all costs of conveying and surveying the land must be paid by the state of Illinois. CBO

estimates that enactment will have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. Costello and was reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote on October 20.

H.R. 1235—Solano Water Impoundment and Conveyance Act authorizes the Interior Secretary to enter into contracts with the Solano County Water Agency, pursuant to the 1911 Warren Act, to allow the use of reclamation project facilities to impound, store, and move non-project water for domestic, municipal, industrial, and other beneficial purposes. The bill also authorizes the city of Vallejo, California, to share space in the existing federal water delivery canal at the Solano Project, which was built by the Bureau of Reclamation in the 1950s. The city has tried to use its water supply facilities more efficiently, but has been limited by a provision in federal law that prohibits the city from sharing space in an existing federal water delivery canal. The city wants to “wheel” some of its drinking water through part of the canal serving the project and will pay the associated costs to use the facilities. CBO estimates that enactment will have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. George Miller and was reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote on October 27, 1999.

H.R. 486—Community Broadcasters Protection Act creates a new Class A license for LPTV stations that will give eligible stations primary status. Licensees will become eligible for this status if they meet certain programming requirements or if the FCC deems it to be in the public interest. Eligible licensees will be granted primary status if they are licensed to operate on certain channels in the core channels (2-51). Eligible stations located on channels 52 through 69 may be given primary status only after they are assigned a channel in the core. Class A licensees and certain other stations also can obtain an additional channel for DTV services, subject to availability. However, the new Class A stations may not interfere with existing full-power analog stations or with certain DTV services. CBO estimates that H.R. 486 will result in the net loss of approximately \$95 million in offsetting receipts from spectrum auctions in 2002. The bill was introduced by Mr. Norwood and was reported by the Commerce Committee by voice vote on October 14, 1999.

H.R. 1714—Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce (E-SIGN) Act establishes a single, nationwide standard for electronic signatures and records. Electronic signatures on digital documents assure a recipient of a document’s origin and authenticity through digital codes specific to each party and ensures that a contract or agreement formed online has legal effect. The bill does not mandate a particular type of authentication nor does it specify the types of businesses that should be permitted to offer these services, leaving such decisions to the marketplace. Thus, the bill is designed to prohibit states from discriminating in favor of a specific type of electronic technology or the manufacturer of that technology. The bill managers may offer an amendment to make various changes to the bill, but details were unavailable at press time. CBO estimates that enactment will cost approximately \$1 million annually, subject to the availability of appropriations. The bill was introduced by Mr. Norwood and was reported by the Commerce Committee by voice vote on August 5, 1999.

H.R. 974—District of Columbia College Access Act, as amended by the Senate, establishes a program to allow high school graduates of the District of Columbia to pay in-state tuition rates upon admission to state colleges in Virginia and Maryland (the House-passed bill applied to colleges nationwide). The measure also authorizes \$12 million in FY 2000 to cover the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition (the House-passed bill authorized such funds as necessary to carry out the act for FYs 2000-2005) and directs graduates seeking scholarships under the program to submit an application to the mayor.

The House passed H.R. 974 under suspension of the rules by voice vote on May 24, 1999. The Senate passed an amended version of the measure by unanimous consent on October 19, 1999. CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 974 will increase discretionary spending by \$9 million in 2000 and \$72 million over the FY 2000-2004 period. The bill was introduced by Mr. Davis (VA) *et al.* and was reported by the Government Reform Committee by voice vote on May 19, 1999.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #32, October 29, 1999.



To subscribe to this publication via e-mail, please send an e-mail to LegDigest@mail.house.gov and type “SUBSCRIBE” in the subject line.

Brian Fortune: *Managing Editor*

Kevin Smith: *Senior Legislative Analyst*

Mary Rose Baker, Scott Galupo,
Brendan Shields, & Heather Valentine:
Legislative Analysts

House
REPUBLICAN
Conference

Legislative
Digest

<http://hillsource.house.gov/LegislativeDigest>